

Funding Programs

Federal Victims of Crime (VOCA) Grant Program

☼ SOVWA awards funds through a competitive subgrant program and discretionary subgrants to public and nonprofit agencies to provide direct services to victims

Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program

☼ SOVWA awards VAWA funds to combat violence against women and to enhance services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Funds are allocated under federal guidelines to prosecution, law enforcement, courts, and public and private nonprofit victim service agencies. Victim services funds are awarded through a competitive grant process.



Legal Sources



Constitutional Amendment Article 1, Paragraph 22

A victim of crime shall be treated with fairness, compassion and respect by the criminal justice system. A victim of crime shall not be denied the right to be present at public judicial proceedings except when, prior to completing testimony as a witness, the victim is properly sequestered in accordance with law or the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey. A victim of a crime shall be entitled to those rights and remedies as may be provided by the Legislature.

Crime Victims' Bill of Rights

Attorney General Standards to Ensure the Rights of Crime Victims

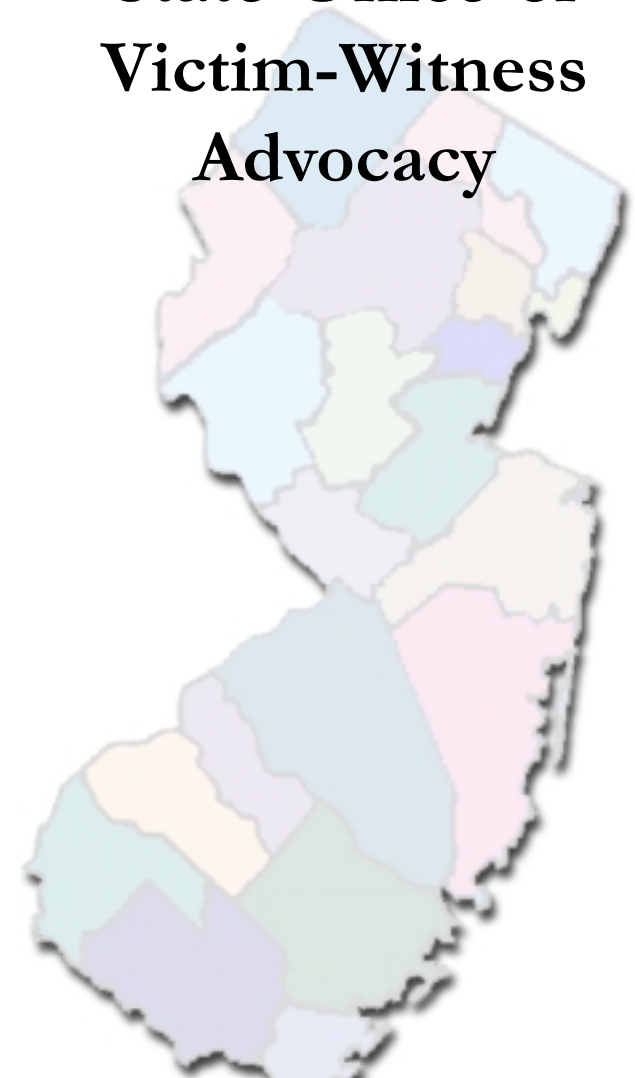
Domestic Violence Prevention Act

Drunk Driving Victim Bill of Rights



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New Jersey's State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy



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State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

Established in 1986 within the Division of Criminal Justice, the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) has been providing assistance to victims and witnesses and their families across the State.

Through collaboration and coordination with the law enforcement community, public agencies, nonprofit service providing agencies, faith-based community programs, and others, a more victim-centered response is possible.

In addition to providing assistance to victims and witnesses and their families, the SOVWA has oversight of the 21 County Offices of Victim-Witness Advocacy within the county prosecutors' offices. The SOVWA provides technical assistance and support, provides annual training in the areas of victim rights and services, and conducts program evaluations of the County Offices of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

The SOVWA is also responsible for administering several federal grant programs and the State Victim-Witness Advocacy Fund, which supports the operations of the SOVWA.



Mission

The mission of the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy is to participate in the development, support and expansion of victim-witness services across the State.

Goal

The goal of the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy is to provide victims and witnesses with services that will help them cope with the aftermath of victimization and to help make their participation in the system less difficult and burdensome.

For Information, visit our website at

www.njvw.org

or contact us at:

State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

P.O. Box 085 Trenton, NJ 08625-0085

609-896-8855

Victim Assistance

In carrying out its mission and accomplishing its goal, the SOVWA is responsible for or participates in the following activities and funding programs:

- ☞ ensures that victims' rights and services are provided in accordance with legislative mandates
- ☞ provides **ALL** victims with access to comprehensive quality services
- ☞ oversees the 21 County Offices of Victim-Witness Advocacy
- ☞ develops protocols and standards for the treatment of victims and witnesses
- ☞ develops and maintains a comprehensive resource manual to aid victims and witnesses in receiving services
- ☞ serves as a member of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Crisis Response Team
- ☞ serves as lead agency for the Statewide Community Crisis Response Team
- ☞ trains the law enforcement community in the areas of victims' rights and services
- ☞ plans, conducts or participates in statewide conferences, seminars, training and other activities
- ☞ assesses the needs of victims and identifies gaps in services to victims